system has been tested thoroughly for its reliability and effectiveness.

Shortage of Wagons in Gujarat

2624. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of railway wagons in Gujarat particularly at Unjha station in Mehsana District for loading of various local; agriculture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of railway wagons provided by the Western Railway for loading various goods and agricultural products from the Unjha station during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide railway wagons to Unjha station to meet the demands of local traders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The details of outward loading took place at Unjha railway station in the past three years is as under :

Year	No. of wagons (Booked)
1993-94	347
1994-95	31
1995-96	-

(d) Unjha is a 'B' Class station on the Mahesana - Palanpur newly converted BG section of Rajkot division on Western Railway. The Station was closed for goods traffic w.e.f. 3.4.1995 due to inadequate offering of traffic. Now it is a 4 line station with the fourth line yet to be commissioned. The fourth line will be the goods shed line. When the line is commissioned, it will be possible to handle both inward and outward traffic in rake loads and wagons will be supplied to Unjha station as and when indents for full rake loads are placed.

Gauge Conversion

2625. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the gauge conversion work of Quilon-Tenkasi-Tirunelveli metre gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the total estimated cost thereof;

(c) the fund allocated during 1997-98;

(d) whether the Government got the approval of Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The work has been included in the budget 1997-98 and will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(b) Rs. 280 crs.

(c) Rs. 1 lakh.

(d) and (e) The project has been sent to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

[Translation]

Proposal for Documentaries

2626. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals received for producing documentaries on Rural Development and River Valley Schemes during the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Hindi serial 'Pani ke Akshar' has been discontinued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to re-start it on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A total number of 710 proposals inclusive of Spots on rural development were received during the year 1995-96. As regards river valley schemes, no proposal was received from outside producers and the programmes on river valley schemes were produced in-house. Out of these, 119 proposals including 69 documentaries were approved.

(c) and (d) 'Pani Ke Akshar' was a series of programmes based on different River Valley Projects and it was an in-house production. The programme went off the air after completion of the series.

(e) The Government has no plan, at present, to restart it on Doordarshan.